B. AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1 – 7. Cancelled.

8. (New) A method of producing purified human papillomavirus (HPV) virus-like particles (VLPs) comprising:

purifying a recombinantly expressed HPV L1 protein or truncated version thereof in the presence of at least one reducing agent that maintains said recombinantly expressed HPV L1 protein or truncated version thereof in a form other than a VLP; and

assembling said recombinantly expressed HPV L1 protein or truncated version thereof into purified human papillomavirus virus-like particles (VLPs).

9. (New) The method of Claim 8 wherein said human papillomavirus VLPs are selected from the group consisting of HPV-6, HPV-11, HPV-16, HPV-18, HPV-30, HPV-31, HPV-33, HPV-35, HPV-39, HPV-41, HPV-42, HPV-43, HPV-44, HPV-45, HPV-52, HPV-54, HPV-55, HPV-56, HPV-58, HPV-70, and mixtures thereof.

10. (New) The method of Claim 9 wherein said human papillomavirus VLP is an HPV-16 VLP.

11. (New) The method of Claim 9 wherein said human papillomavirus VLPs are HPV-16 VLPs and HPV-18 VLPs.

12. (New) The method of Claim 9 wherein said human papillomavirus VLP is an HPV-11 VLP.

13. (New) The method of Claim 8 wherein said reducing agent is a sulfhydryl reducing agent.

14. (New) The method of Claim 13 wherein said sulfhydryl reducing agent is ß-mercaptoethanol.

15. (New) The method of Claim 8 wherein assembly of said HPV L1 protein or truncated version thereof is induced by oxidation or removal of said reducing agent.

16. (New) A method of producing purified human papillomavirus (HPV) virus-like particles (VLPs), comprising:

purifying a recombinantly expressed HPV L1 protein or truncated version thereof in the presence of at least one reducing agent that maintains said recombinantly expressed HPV L1 protein or truncated version thereof in a form other than a VLP; and

assembling said recombinantly expressed HPV L1 protein or truncated version thereof into purified human papillomavirus virus-like particles (VLPs) by removing or oxidizing said at least one reducing agent.

17. (New) The method of Claim 16 wherein said human papillomavirus VLPs are selected from the group consisting of HPV-6, HPV-11, HPV-16, HPV-18, HPV-30, HPV-31, HPV-33, HPV-35, HPV-39, HPV-41, HPV-42, HPV-43, HPV-44, HPV-45, HPV-52, HPV-54, HPV-55, HPV-56, HPV-58, HPV-70, and mixtures thereof.

18. (New) The method of Claim 17 wherein said human papillomavirus VLP is an HPV-16 VLP.

19. (New) The method of Claim 17 wherein said human papillomavirus VLPs are HPV-16 VLPs and HPV-18 VLPs.

20. (New) The method of Claim 17 wherein said human papillomavirus VLP is an HPV-11 VLP.

21. (New) The method of Claim 16 wherein said reducing agent is a sulfhydryl reducing agent.

22. (New) The method of Claim 21 wherein said sulfhydryl reducing agent is β-mercaptoethanol.